

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-2 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A data communication device in communication with an external communication device, comprising:

a reply unit configured to transmit ~~reply~~reply information corresponding to a request issued by the external device, and to store the reply information in a memory;

a connection monitoring unit ~~connection~~ configured to monitor a connection between the data communication device and the external communication device, the connection for transmitting the reply information from the reply unit; and

a transmission unit configured to transmit the reply information corresponding to the connection stored in said memory to said external communication device if the transmission unit determines that the connection has been abnormally cut off based on a result of the monitoring by said connection monitoring unit.

2. (Currently Amended) The data communication device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reply information destruction unit which destroys the reply information stored in said memory if the ~~reply~~reply information destruction unit determines that the connection has been is normally released based on the result of the monitoring by said connection monitoring unit.

3. (Previously Presented) The data communication device according to claim 1, wherein

the reply information includes identification information for identifying the request.

4. (Previously Presented) A data communication method, comprising:  
transmitting reply information from a first data communication device, the reply information corresponding to a request issued by a second data communication device,  
storing the reply information at the first data communication device;  
monitoring a connection between the first and second data communication devices, the connection for transmitting the reply information from the first data communication device; and

transmitting the reply information corresponding to the connection and stored at the first data communication device to the second data communication device as if it is determined that the connection has been abnormally cut off based on a result of the monitoring.

5. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium for computer executable instructions, which when executed on a computer, causes the computer to perform:

transmitting reply information from a first data communication device, the  
reply information corresponding to a request issued by a second data communication device,  
storing the reply information at the first data communication device;  
monitoring a connection between the first and second data communication  
devices, the connection for transmitting the reply information from the first data  
communication device; and  
transmitting the reply information corresponding to the connection and stored  
at the first data communication device to the second data communication device as if it is  
determined that the connection has been abnormally cut off based on a result of the  
monitoring.